## **ABSTRACT**

A process for the preparation of a class of phenylalanine enamide derivatives is described:

$$Ar^{1}L^{2}$$

$$R^{2}$$

$$R^{2}$$

$$R^{2}$$

$$R^{3}$$

$$R^{4}$$

$$R^{5}$$

wherein:

5

10

20

Ar<sup>1</sup> is an optionally substituted aromatic or heteroaromatic group; L<sup>2</sup> is a linker group selected from -N(R<sup>4</sup>)- [where R<sup>4</sup> is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted straight or branched  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group], -CON(R<sup>4</sup>)-, or -S(O)<sub>2</sub>N(R<sup>4</sup>)-; R<sup>1</sup> is a carboxylic acid (-CO<sub>2</sub>H) or a derivative or biostere thereof; R<sup>2</sup> is a hydrogen atom or a  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group; R<sup>x</sup>, R<sup>y</sup> and R<sup>z</sup> which may be the same or different is each an atom or group -L<sup>1</sup>(Alk<sup>1</sup>)<sub>n</sub>(R<sup>3</sup>)<sub>v</sub>;

and the salts, solvates, hydrates and N-oxides thereof;

which comprises reacting a compound of formula (2):

$$Q^a$$
 $R^y$ 
 $Q^z$ 
 $Q^z$ 

wherein:

Q<sup>a</sup> is a group -N(R<sup>4</sup>)H;

and the salts, solvates, hydrates and N-oxides thereof;

with a compound  $Ar^1W$  wherein W is a group selected from  $X^1$  (wherein  $X^1$  is a leaving atom or group),  $-COX^2$  (wherein  $X^2$  is a halogen atom or a -OH group) or  $-SO_2X^3$  (in which  $X^3$  is a halogen atom).